



State Ethics Commission of Georgia

ADVISORY OPINION NO. 1987-17
March 2, 1987

SUBJECT: REPORTING UNDER O.C.G.A. § 21-5-31(a) BY PERSONS WHICH PROVIDE SERVICES TO CANDIDATES FOR POLITICAL OFFICE

ADVISORY OPINION

This is in response to a request for an interpretation of the Act in the instance of a person as defined in O.C.G.A. § 21-5-31(a) thereof, who pays for services rendered on behalf of a candidate for political office when the person is compensated for the payment for the services by some candidates and is not compensated for the payment for the services by other candidates.

Under O.C.G.A. § 21-5-31(a), “persons” as defined in § 21-5-4(14) who accept expenditures from a candidate in exchange for services to be rendered on behalf of the candidate are subject to the disclosure requirements of the law the same as a candidate, where such person is organized for the specific purpose of providing services to candidates for political office, or is in fact engaged primarily in the rendering of such services. This interpretation shall not apply to persons such as bona fide public relations firms, printers or other vendors who provide such services to candidates incidentally as one part of providing services to the public generally and 51% of whose gross receipts for the immediate 12 month period prior to the reporting deadline in question are not generated from such services.

In the event any person makes expenditures for payment for services rendered on behalf of a candidate when no expenditure has been made by the candidate to said person for payment for said services, then said person is making expenditures on behalf of a candidate and that person must register and report as is required by O.C.G.A. § 21-5-31(a).